

## State of the State Radio Networks

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### Description

To provide SIEC members with a more complete understanding of the number of state networks, each agency that owns/operates a major radio system or network has been asked to provide a briefing about their system to the SIEC. In addition, each agency has been asked to answer three basic questions:

1. What activities and initiatives does your agency participate in that promotes interoperability, and how?
2. Who do you interoperate with (on a daily, weekly, monthly basis) and how?
3. How do these activities work towards the goals as outlined in the *Interim Plan*?

### Recommendations to the Committee

The purpose of these briefings include:

1. Making SIEC members more aware of the different radio networks and systems in Washington state; and
2. Asking the SIEC to re-authorize the projects and programs it previously approved.
3. Approve new projects and the required spectrum.

### Status

The following agencies were asked to brief the SIEC:

- Washington State Department of Transportation
- Washington State Department of Corrections
- The Department of Natural Resources
- The Washington State Patrol
- The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- The Emergency Management Division, Washington Military Department

### Issues

The SIEC Interim Plan found that not all state agencies communicated with each other on a regular basis. Few agencies had a true business reason to interoperate on a daily basis. Generally, when a requirement existed for interoperability, it was often accomplished by using two radios or dual-band radios.

Recently, state agencies have made purchases that can easily be used in an overall state plan to promote interoperability. The purchase of cross-band repeaters, although not a sophisticated way to interoperate with agencies, does work, and now for the first time, these devices are capable of being shared.

### Background

Prior to the SIEC, there has never been any business proposition that endorsed or supported an enterprise view towards interoperability. When the SIEC was formed, agencies began thinking in terms of their radio systems and looking at the larger picture, and how all state agencies should be able to communicate with each other when required. Since the SIEC formation, agencies started thinking in terms of economies of scale and the potential of what could be realized with an enterprise approach to radio interoperability. Agencies are beginning to make purchases that will enable interoperability, and create partnerships in both radio systems and infrastructure.